

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for distributing design document changes comprising:
capturing a representation of a revision block of a design document, wherein the
revision block documents a history of changes to the design document; and
5 distributing the representation via a network service.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the representation is an extensible
markup language (XML) representation.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the revision block comprises a table of
various design document properties.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the design document properties are
customized to meet documentation needs of an organization.
- 15 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the representation is automatically
captured.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the representation is captured
20 transparently to a designer.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the representation is distributed to a
consumer of the design document such that the consumer is notified of changes in the

design document without having to refer to the design document directly.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

updating the representation as additional revisions are added to the revision

5 block; and

redistributing the representation.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the distributing comprises transmitting

the representation to the network service via a network, wherein the network service

10 transmits the representation:

to a web site used to track revisions for a project;

to a database used for document management; and

in an email to a design document consumer.

15 10. An apparatus for distributing design document changes in a computer system comprising:

(a) a computer having a memory;

(b) an application executing on the computer, wherein the application is

configured to:

20 (i) capture a representation of a revision block of a design document into the memory, wherein the revision block documents a history of changes to the design document; and

(ii) distribute the representation via a network service.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the representation is an extensible markup language (XML) representation.

5 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the revision block comprises a table of various design document properties.

10 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the design document properties are customized to meet documentation needs of an organization.

14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the representation is automatically captured.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the representation is captured transparently to a designer.

16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the representation is distributed to a consumer of the design document such that the consumer is notified of changes in the design document without having to refer to the design document directly.

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17. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the application is further configured to:

update the representation as additional revisions are added to the revision block;

and

redistribute the representation.

18. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the application distributes the
5 representation by transmitting the representation to the network service via a network,
wherein the network service transmits the representation:

to a web site used to track revisions for a project;

to a database used for document management; and

in an email to a design document consumer.

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19. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium
readable by a computer and embodying logic executable by the computer that causes the
computer to distribute design document changes, wherein the logic comprises:

capturing a representation of a revision block of a design document, wherein the
15 revision block documents a history of changes to the design document; and
distributing the representation via a network service.

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20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the representation is an
extensible markup language (XML) representation.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the revision block
comprises a table of various design document properties.

22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the design document properties are customized to meet documentation needs of an organization.

23. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the representation is
5 automatically captured.

24. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the representation is captured transparently to a designer.

10 25. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the representation is distributed to a consumer of the design document such that the consumer is notified of changes in the design document without having to refer to the design document directly.

15 26. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the logic further comprises:

updating the representation as additional revisions are added to the revision block; and

redistributing the representation.

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27. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the logic for distributing comprises logic for transmitting the representation to the network service via a network, wherein the network service transmits the representation:

to a web site used to track revisions for a project;

to a database used for document management; and

in an email to a design document consumer.

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